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By MURRAY CHASS

New York Times (1923-Current file); Nov 10, 1980;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2006)
pg. C12

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Reggie Jackson, the Yankees' first star acquired through the free-agent draft, is so eager to have Dave Winfield as a teammate that he said he would help George Steinbrenner recruit Winfield after Thursday's draft.

"If he asked me, I'd help him," Jackson said by telephone from his home in Oakland, Calif., yesterday. "It would be beneficial to the club and to me. I think it would be great having Dave on the team. He's a very bright, very articulate guy. I'd love to see him come here, especially to hit behind me. This is the place for him to play, especially if Dick Howser is the manager."

Jackson, Winfield and everyone else may find out in the next few days if Howser will remain the Yankee manager. Jackson, for one, would like to see Howser stay and has told Steinbrenner that he should retain Howser.

Jackson said that he believed Howser's low-key approach was good for the team and that Winfield in particular would benefit from it.

A Congenial Atmosphere

"Dick is an appreciative guy and he lets you know it," Jackson said. "He'd say to Dave: 'Here's a ball and a bat. I'll see you in October.' There's a good atmosphere on the club; there's good interaction. Everybody gets along. It's also better with Jackson on the club because if anything comes up, I'll get the blame. Like if we don't win or something. This would be a good atmosphere for him. There would be no problems

for him coming in. The club's been through that and knows the ramifications of what happened in the past."

The possibility of Winfield's signing with the Yankees raises various questions. For one, would a Winfield contract with the Yankees affect the status of another Jackson contract with the Yankees? Jackson has one year remaining on his five-year, \$2,660,000 contract and has said he would like to sign a new one before the start of next season. For another, would Winfield prefer to sign with a team on which he would not have to compete for publicity and recognition with someone of Jackson's stature? Jackson had answers to both questions.

Issue of Contractual Rivalry

"I don't want to talk about the kind of contract I want," he said, "but I have a length and an amount in mind. What Winfield gets is none of my business. What I get shouldn't be anybody's business. I had an opportunity to sign a contract in '76, and I haven't regretted it. I'll have an opportunity to sign another one this winter or next spring. Dave Winfield will have his opportunity. If he gets \$2 million or more a year, it's none of my business. I should get what I command. Dave Winfield is Dave Winfield, and Reggie Jackson is Reggie Jackson."

But, he said, if Winfield were to get \$400,000 or \$500,000 a year more than what Jackson has in mind for himself, he would probably have to adjust his thinking.

"But I'm not going on record now as saying I should be the highest paid or I

want as much as Dave Winfield," he said. "I think the Yankees can afford both of us. They drew over five million this year; they have the biggest television and radio contracts; they've got cable television coming into play, all that advertising George has, the concessions. I think they can afford to pay it. Whether George wants to is up to him. It's his ball and his bat. He can do what he wants. If he wants to sign both of us, he will. I would say that's what he wants to do. It could change, but he's given me the feeling he wants to keep me."

As for the big-fish-in-the-little-pond theory, an issue that Winfield has never raised, Jackson scoffed at the idea that Winfield would prefer playing for a team like the Mets because he would be the big attraction.

"I think that idea would be an insult to him," said Jackson. "That's what they said about me when I came to the Yankees: 'Reggie's got a big ego; he has to be the No. 1 man.' Dave Winfield is above that. It's offensive to bring that up."

"Look, New York is an extremely difficult place to play. When you make that choice to come to New York, to be a star, you pay a hell of a price. I don't want to say Dave Winfield is coming to New York for the glitter or the glamour. He's more human than that. But I think if he comes here, in five or six years he could be recognized as the best player in the game. Could I take the liberty of calling myself the best clutch player in the game? That comes from being in New York. Mr. October

and all that. But you can't come to New York thinking that or planning that. If you did, it would consume you."

Jackson said that he felt the pressure of playing in New York nearly consumed him in his first year or two here, but he survived his initiation and last season had not only the manager but also the fans on his side. He has also prospered in other ways, and his off-season schedule reflects that.

In the next month, he will do several television shows, including "The Hollywood Squares" and "Superstars"; he will come to New York to do some work for Murjani jeans and Standard Brands, the manufacturer of the Reggie candy bar; and he may go to Japan for another of his accounts, Panasonic.

When he comes to New York next weekend, if Steinbrenner asks Jackson if he would like to get together with Winfield, the way a Tom Seaver might recruit a college football star for the University of Southern California, Jackson said he would gladly add that to his calendar.

Howser Desires Further Talks

Howser said from his Tallahassee, Fla., home that he had talked with Steinbrenner twice on the phone yesterday but that he had still not reached a decision on his future. The manager said that neither he nor the owner had established a deadline for that decision. "I need to talk to him some more," said Howser, who added that he expected to talk to Steinbrenner by phone today.

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Associated Press

Reggie Jackson: "I think it would be great having Dave on the team."